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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,192	09/16/2003	Johnnie R. Crean	ALFALE.021C1	1419
20995	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP 2040 MAIN STREET FOURTEENTH FLOOR IRVINE, CA 92614			COLETTA, LORI L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/663,192	CREAN, JOHNNIE R.
	Examiner Lori L. Coletta	Art Unit 3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,8,10,11,14,17-19,22-24 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-7,9,12,13,15,16,20,21 and 25-27 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
      1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
      3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/16/2003
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 11 and 17-22 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 11, "the first wall and first and second end walls" (line 3) needs to be changed to --the first wall--.

Regarding claim 17, "the slide-out housing" (line 17) needs to be changed to --the slide-out--. *See same deficiency in claim 22 (line 4).*

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 22 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 22, "at least one fifth securing component" (lines 1 and 2) is not clear.

What is positively recited by "at least one fifth securing component"?

*See same deficiency in claim 28 (lines 1 and 2).*

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

5. Claims 1-4, 8, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 22-24 and 28, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by McManus et al. 6,572,170.

Regarding claim 1, McManus et al. '170 discloses a recreational vehicle comprising a main housing having a plurality of walls (12, 14, 16 and 18) that are joined together so as to define an interior living space (10) with a floor (20) and a roof (19), wherein the plurality of walls includes a first wall (12) having an opening (30) formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall; a slide-out housing (32) positioned in the opening (30) in the first wall (12) so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out housing having upper and lower outer edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position; and a securing mechanism (60) having a plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall and a second plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower outer edges of the slide-out housing, wherein the second plurality of securing components engages with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position so as to couple the upper and lower outer edges of the slide-out housing to the upper and lower portions of the first wall to thereby inhibit movement between the upper and lower portion of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position in Figures 1 and 3.

Regarding claim 2, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the slide-out room (32) is movable between a retracted position such that the slide-out housing is retracted into the opening so as to be substantially positioned within the main housing and an extended position such that the slide-out housing is extended outward from the opening (30) so

that at least a portion of the slide-out housing is extended outward from the first wall (12) in Figure 1.

Regarding claim 3, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the first plurality of securing components are adapted to receive the second plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position.

Regarding claim 4, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the second plurality of securing components extend in a direction substantially perpendicular to the first wall.

Regarding claim 8, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises a chassis having first and second ends and first and second lateral sides.

Regarding claim 10, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises a plurality of wheels attached to the chassis so as to permit rolling movement of the recreational vehicle over the ground.

Regarding claim 11, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the floor of the main housing is positioned on the chassis, and wherein the plurality of walls further includes a second wall positioned opposite the first wall, and wherein the roof is mounted atop the plurality of walls so as to define the interior living space.

Regarding claim 14, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the slide-out housing includes upper and lower inner edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall when the slide-out housing is in the extended positions.

Regarding claim 17, McManus et al. '170 discloses a recreational vehicle comprising a chassis having a plurality of wheels; a coach having a plurality of walls that are joined together so as to define an interior living space with a floor and a roof, wherein the plurality of walls include a first wall having an opening formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall; a slide-out positioned within the opening formed in the first wall so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out having a plurality of walls including an outer wall with upper and lower edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach when the slide-out is in the retracted position; and a securing assembly having a first plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach and a second plurality of securing components positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the outer wall of the slide-out, wherein the second plurality of securing components engage with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out housing is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall to the lower portion of the first wall via the outer wall of the slide out when the slide-out is in the retracted position in Figures 1 and 3.

Regarding claims 18 and 24, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, wherein the first plurality of securing components are adapted to receive the second plurality of securing components, and wherein the second plurality of securing components engages with the first plurality of securing components in a substantially perpendicular manner when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

Regarding claims 22 and 28, McManus et al. '170 discloses the recreational vehicle, further comprising at least one securing component mounted on the slide-out that is adapted to engage with at least one of the first securing components so as to interconnect the slide-out with the upper portion of the first wall when the slide-out is in the extended position.

Regarding claim 23, McManus et al. '170 discloses a recreational vehicle comprising a chassis having a plurality of wheels; a coach mounted to the chassis, the coach having a plurality of walls that are joined together so as to define an interior living space with a floor and a roof, wherein the plurality of walls includes a first wall having an opening formed therein so as to define upper and lower portions of the first wall; a slide-out positioned in the opening in the first wall so as to be movable between a retracted and extended position, the slide-out having a plurality of walls including an outer wall with upper and lower edges that are positioned adjacent the upper and lower portions of the first wall of the coach when the slide-out is in the retracted position; and a securing mechanism having a first plurality of securing components mounted on the upper wall of the first wall of the coach and on a portion of the chassis adjacent the lower portion of the first wall of the coach and a second plurality of securing components mounted on the outer wall of the slide-out such that the second plurality of securing components engage with the first plurality of securing components when the slide-out is in the retracted position to thereby interconnect the upper portion of the first wall of the coach to the chassis via the outer wall of the slide-out when the slide-out is in the retracted position.

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***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 5-7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 25-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is (703) 306-4614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lori L. Coletta  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3612

*Lori L. Coletta*

Lori L. Coletta  
May 12, 2004